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Monday Quarterbacking

From the very beginning it was clear that the only thing all Cuban exile groups agreed on was hatred of Castro's dictatorship. They disagreed on everything else.

It was equally obvious that to smash the Cuban Soviet requires leadership and effort at least equal to that which Castro's incessant eloquence and Sten guns evoke from his captive audience.

Central Intelligence Agency's spooks saw this, but probably the greatest booboo being charged to our one billion dollar a year department of cloaks and daggers is the naive way it attempted to dispose of this problem.

The spooks had three choices: To insist on unity among the factions; support one and ignore the rest, or support all factions that qualified as anti-Communist, anti-Castro and anti-Batista.

The CIA took the first choice.

All groups seeking arms to fight Castro were forced by the CIA to commit themselves to working under the Revolutionary Council or to stay out in the cold.

Effective leadership doesn't appear by appointment; its strength evolves from its travail. Unity can't be had simply by signing a paper saying it is so.

By now, it seems clear that the third choice is the right one, since it provides the widest opposition to Castro. Time enough to argue politics after the Castro dictatorship is wrecked.

For the blood shed so gallantly on

in the following

Cuba's beach will cement all the exiled factions more tightly, but as of today it seems only to have intensified their bickering.

Because the brave effort of the exiles was not matched by the people inside Cuba does not mean that Cubans prefer a police state to freedom; it means the propaganda was inadequate, the co-ordination bad, security nil and the unity only on paper.

The Council's thrust was typically Cuban in its courage and its lack of co-ordination. The Castro party was typically Soviet-Russian in its efficiency, ferocity and completeness.

Never before, anywhere in this hemisphere, have 50,000 Latin Americans been ruthlessly rounded up overnight at the blowing of a police whistle.

Never before has Russian military might established itself in this hemisphere.

There's no doubt who won the first game in this series. What is so sad about it is that not only Cubans but so many other Latin Americans and their governments even today refuse to read the score.

President Kennedy was not a moment too soon with his warning that "Cuba is not an island unto itself" and must not be abandoned because that would mean Soviet encroachment throughout the hemisphere.

COLO. - APR 25, 1961
ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE,
N.M. - APR 24, 1961
EL PASO HERALD POST,
TEXAS - APR 24, 1961